S.B. NO. ¹¹⁰ ^{S.D. 1} ^{H.D. 1}

C.D. 1

1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GENDER-NEUTRAL TERMINOLOGY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

| 1 | SECTION 1. Chapter 578, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is |
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| 2 | amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated |
| 3 | and to read as follows: |
| 4 | " <u>§578-</u> Interpretation of words to be gender-neutral. |
| 5 | With regard to the rights, benefits, protections, and |
| 6 | responsibilities of persons set forth in this chapter, all |
| 7 | gender-specific terminology, such as "wife", "husband", |
| 8 | "mother", "father", or similar terms, shall be construed in a |
| 9 | gender-neutral manner. This rule of interpretation shall apply |
| 10 | to all administrative rules adopted hereunder." |
| 11 | SECTION 2. Chapter 580, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is |
| 12 | amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated |
| 13 | and to read as follows: |
| 14 | "§580- Interpretation of words to be gender-neutral. |
| 15 | With regard to the rights, benefits, protections, and |
| 16 | responsibilities of persons set forth under this chapter, all |
| 17 | gender-specific terminology, such as "wife", "husband", |
| 18 | "mother", "father", "aunt", "uncle", "niece", "nephew", or |
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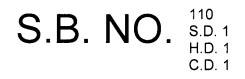
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1 similar terms, shall be construed in a gender-neutral manner. 2 This rule of interpretation shall apply to all administrative 3 rules adopted hereunder." 4 SECTION 3. Section 578-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is 5 amended to read as follows: 6 "§578-1 Who may adopt; jurisdiction; venue. Any [proper] 7 unmarried adult person, [not married, or] any person married to 8 the legal [father or mother] parent of a minor child, or a 9 [husband_and_wife] married couple jointly[7] may petition the 10 family court of the circuit in which the person or persons 11 reside or are in military service [or the family court of the 12 circuit], in which the individual to be adopted resides or was 13 born, or in which a child placing organization approved by the 14 department of human services under the provisions of section 15 346-17 having legal custody (as defined in section 571-2) of the 16 child is located $[\tau]$ for leave to adopt an individual toward whom 17 the person or persons do not sustain the legal relationship of 18 parent and child and for a change of the name of the individual. 19 When adoption is the goal of a permanent plan recommended by the 20 department of human services and ordered pursuant to section 21 587A-31, the department may petition for adoption on behalf of

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1 the proposed adoptive parents. The petition shall be in [such]
2 <u>a</u> form and shall include [such] information and exhibits as may
3 be prescribed by the family court."

4 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
5 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2024.





Report Title:

Gender-Neutral Terminology; Statutory Interpretation; Adoption; Annulment, Divorce, and Separation

Description:

Requires gender-specific terminology used in adoption and annulment, divorce, and separation matters to be construed in a gender-neutral manner. Takes effect 1/1/2024. (CD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

